

## Choosing a career

***is a long way off, so you have lots of time to decide what you want to do. Ask yourself a few questions. What do you like to study now? What do you want to learn about? What activities do you enjoy?***

***The more you think about your interests, the better able you are to turn your wonderful talents into an amazing career and create an exciting future.***

The **California Energy Commission** is the state's principal energy planning agency. The Energy Commission develops energy policies for the state and supports research and technology for energy efficiency and renewable energy (wind, solar, geothermal, small hydroelectric, fuel cells and biomass). The Energy Commission also licenses large thermal power plants.

# energize your future

***Close your eyes  
and dream about  
your future...***

***What extraordinary  
things will you  
accomplish?  
What career path  
will you follow?***

State of California

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

California Energy Commission  
Jackalyn Pfannenstiel, Chairman  
James D. Boyd, Vice Chair

Commissioners:  
Arthur H. Rosenfeld  
Jeffrey D. Byron  
Karen Douglas



CALIFORNIA  
ENERGY COMMISSION

# Careers in energy?

You will be surprised to learn how an interest in science, technology, engineering or math – or even art and design – can lead to a career in energy. Being “green” is becoming an important way of life for everyone, and using energy wisely is a big part of going green. People who understand energy are needed in many different green professions. If you are creative, curious, detail-oriented and like to find solutions to problems, there are many energy-related careers for you. Here are just a few to consider.

**Architects** and **designers** design green houses and buildings to save resources, including energy.

**Communications specialists** make certain the public understands new energy technology and ways that people can conserve energy.

**Automotive design engineers** can design cars that use little gasoline or that run on alternate fuels, such as electricity, natural gas, biodiesel or fuel cells.

**Biologists** can help make sure power plants have the smallest impact on plants and animals in the surrounding environment.

**Energy analysts** help save energy in buildings, homes and factories.

**Energy engineers** look for better ways to produce energy.

**Environmental designers** develop energy systems that run on wind or solar power.

**Environmental scientists** can find solutions to environmental problems, such as pollution caused by power plants.

**Landscape designers** can create energy-saving “living roofs” covered with plants. These roofs naturally keep buildings cool in the summer and warmer in the winter and provide habitat for birds and insects.

**Materials engineers** can help designers work with various materials to make energy efficient products, such as solar panels from plastic.

## learn more

### California Energy Commission

[www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)  
[www.energyquest.ca.gov](http://www.energyquest.ca.gov)

### Engineer Girl

*sponsored by the National Academy of Engineering*  
[www.engineergirl.org](http://www.engineergirl.org)

### Sally Ride Science

[www.sallyridescience.com](http://www.sallyridescience.com)

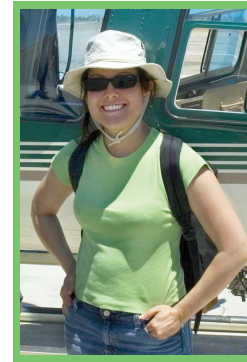
### The National Bureau of Labor Statistics

[www.bls.gov/k12/science.htm](http://www.bls.gov/k12/science.htm)

### California Employment Development Department

[www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov)

# Profiles of Women at the Energy Commission



**Misa Milliron** is a senior biologist. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Science from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and a Master of Science Degree in Botany from the University of Georgia. Before Misa came to the Energy Commission, she was a rare plant botanist for the California Native Plant Society. She enjoys working in biological resource protection and helping the Energy Commission ensure that the environment is protected when power plants are built.

**Diana Schwyzer** is an energy policy advisor for a Commissioner. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Environmental Sciences and Philosophy and a Master of Science degree in Energy and Resources, both from UC Berkeley. Diana decided to study energy because she wanted to help fight global warming. At Berkeley, Diana researched wind energy and how it can reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California. At the Energy Commission, she focuses on alternative transportation fuels and global warming policies.



**Ellie Townsend-Hough** is an associate mechanical engineer in the Siting Environmental Protection Division. Ellie has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Drexel University. She has been with the Energy Commission for twenty years. Ellie's primary focus is managing waste produced by power plants to reduce contamination to the public, workers and the environment.



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